

01310

1990/11/29

76C

PEN American Center

RELEASED

508 Broadway, New York, New York 10012
 (212) 334-1880/Cables: Ashterpen New York/Fax: (212) 334-2181

President
 Larry McCleary

Vice President
 Robert Coen
 Bernadine Kussey
 Susan Borsig
 Robert Stine
 Marsha D. De

Secretary
 Betty Fussell

Treasurer
 Lionel Tiger

Executive Board
 Dore Ashton
 Ron Aulert
 Evan Berman
 Bern Blackburn
 Naomi Bluhm
 Madge Bogin

Patrick Bowron
 Joseph Brodsky
 Wesley Brown
 Marlene Casper

Jerome Charyn
 Amy Clampert
 Joel Conroy
 Joyce Carol Oates

Barbara Diamondstein
 E. L. Doctorow

Jules Feiffer

Frances Fitzgerald

Barbara Friedman

Charles Fiterman

Paula Gliddings

Allen Grossberg

Peter Hargrave

Barbara Goldsmith

Mary Gordon

Marilyn Hacker

Robert Hass

Hal Hartley

Eve Hoffman

Anne Hollander

Matthew Howard

David Henry Hwang

John Irving

Brian Jackson

Lucy Kostner

Eric Krasno

Stephen Krashen

Martha Kinnaman Lester

Penelope Lively

Eileen Lumenten

Robert P. Luce

Orlando Macias

Mary McCarthy

Norman Mailer

Penelope McCormick

Lorraine Merle

Arthur Miller

Mary Morris

Victor Navasky

Galaxy Ong

Grace Paley

Raymond Patterson

Kathleen Peacock

Charles Pease

Carol Peletier

Edward Said

Peter Sacks

Karen Saks

Jonathan Schell

Harvey Sicherman

Richard Shiffman

Alia Shihabi

Peter Shulman

William Styron

Gay Talese

Marion Tolson

Robert Trachten

Kurt Vonnegut

Edward Whelan

Leon Wieseltier

Maria Wolitzer

Donald Worcester

FAX SENT

November 29, 1990

The Honorable James A. Baker III
 Secretary of State
 Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary of State Baker:

On behalf of the more than 2,500 writers who are members of PEN American Center, we write to voice our dismay about reports of your upcoming talks with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Recent articles in the *New York Times* suggest your government has invited the Chinese official to discuss American policy in the Persian Gulf -- more specifically to elicit Chinese support for a United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in exchange for improved relations between the two countries. We fear that this normalization of ties would entail the lifting of U.S. sanctions against China and a curtailing of U.S. criticism of the human rights abuses committed by the Chinese government.

In light of reports detailing the Chinese government's continued crackdown on dissidents and its harsh treatment of those involved in last year's pro-democracy movement, overtures by your government to China seem particularly troubling. We are enclosing an appeal sent today by PEN to Prime Minister Li Peng on behalf of journalists Chen Zimeng and Wang Juntao who were charged last week with "plotting to overthrow the government" and "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda" based upon their active involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations. According to our information, these charges could carry the death sentence. It appears that Mr. Chen and Mr. Juntao are being punished for exercising their internationally recognized right to free expression.

We ask that you intervene on the two journalists' behalf in your upcoming meeting with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. We, furthermore, request that you impress upon the Chinese government that any normalization of the official and economic ties between the United States and China must be preceded by an improvement in the Chinese government's questionable human rights record. Otherwise, it would appear that in its eagerness to pursue its Gulf policy, the U.S. administration is all too willing to sacrifice legitimate human rights concerns.

United States Department of State
 Office of FOIA, Privacy, & Classification Review
 Review Authority: TECHREP IVAN
 Date: 07-22-94
 Case ID: 9301168

PEN AMERICAN CENTER

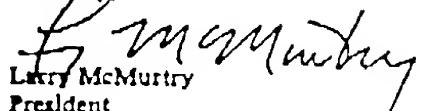
NOV-29-'90 THU 18:40, ID: PEN AMERICAN CENTER TEL NO: 212-334-2181

1054 P83

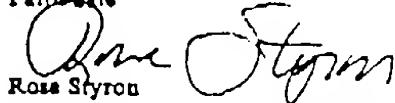
-2-

We hope you give this matter serious consideration and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,


Larry McMurtry
President


Faith Sale


Rose Styron
Co-Chair, Freedom-to-Write Committee